and to kerosene; and

(c) in what manner these subsidies have been brought down in 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) The subsidy on domestic LPG and PDS kerosene was about Rs. 14,246 crore in 2000-2001. As against this, the subsidy during 1999-2000 was about Rs. 12,644 crore.

(b) and (c) The break-up of subsidy amount amongst domestic LPG and PDS kerosene for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 is as follows:

(Rs. in crore)

Products	2000-2001	2001-2002 (Provisional)
Domestic LPG	6724	5830
PDS kerosene	7522	5310

Agreement between GAIL and NIOC

3181. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU): Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Gas Authority of India and the National Iranian Oil Company have recently signed an agreement of cooperation;

(b) if so, the areas of cooperation to be covered under this agreement and the terms of the agreement; and

(c) the extent to which it is likely to augment CNG supplies and availability in India?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) and National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) have signed a Memorandum of Cooperation (MoC) on January 17, 2002 covering gas and related sectors for mutual cooperation. MoC *inter-alia* includes to evaluate and identify the areas for mutual cooperation and scope of its development.